



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit 2153  
Examiner Tod A. Kupstas

#7/a  
mm  
123102

In Re: George Hsu  
Case: P413  
Serial No.: 09/477,226  
Filed: January 4, 2000  
Subject: A Home and Vehicular Automation and Control-Driven Web Portal

To the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir,

**Response A**

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In the claims:

All claims standing for examination are reproduced below. Those claims herein amended are marked (Amended). Those claims left unchanged are herein marked (Unchanged)

- B1
- at
1. (Once Amended) A control unit for monitoring conditions at and controlling functions of an appliance in response to a step sequence received from a remote server, comprising:
    - a microcontroller for managing functions of the control unit;
    - an input-output (I/O) section coupled to the microcontroller for interfacing voltage levels between elements of the appliance and the microcontroller;
    - a system memory for storing the step sequence received from the remote server;
    - a wiring interface for connecting input and output points from the control unit to the system or appliance; and